

Reference Number: FOI/LHCH/2015123
From: Private Individual
Date: 18 May 2015
Subject: Patient Administration System audit trail

- Q1 Please could you tell me whether your NHS Trust's patient management system has the capability to record an audit trail of any sort. For example, a retrospective record of which members of NHS staff have accessed which patients' records; at what dates and times; and for what purpose.
- Q1 The Trusts primary patient management system is Allscripts Sunrise Clinical Manager (Electronic Patient Record). This system audit trail records all activity of data accessed including the user, which records have been accessed, date and time of access and whether clinical entries have been documented. The Trust also utilises an EDMS repository to manage scanned patient records with audit trail functionality also functional as above.
- Q2 Further, if the answer is negative, I would like an explanation as to why this type of audit trail is not recorded; and how the NHS (and in particular the hospitals operating within your NHS Trust) are safeguarding patient records from staff with the potential to abuse their positions of trust and the Data Protection Act. In essence, how can you investigate allegations of a breach of patient confidentiality, in the form of a member of your staff accessing the records of a patient for purposes other than to treat them within the NHS system?
- A2 Information not held – not applicable. You may however wish to review the Health and Social Care Information Centre Information Governance Toolkit which provides guidance on standards to be implemented for all Trusts including auditing and monitoring of access to patient data: <https://www.igt.hscic.gov.uk/>